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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

MICHAEL GONZALES, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware  
corporation, UBER USA, LLC, a Delaware  
limited liability company, RAISER-CA, a  
Delaware limited liability company, and DOES  
1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 3:17-CV-02264

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT  
(CLASS ACTION)**

1. Violation of the ECPA (18 U.S.C. § 2511)
2. Violation of the CIPA (Penal Code § 630 *et seq.*)
3. Violation of the SCA (18 U.S.C. § 2701)
4. Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*)
5. Violation of California's Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (Cal. Pen. Code, § 502)
6. Invasion of Privacy

(Jury Trial Demanded)

1 Plaintiff Michael Gonzales, individually and on behalf of all persons similarly situated,  
2 alleges the following by and through the undersigned attorneys.

3 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

4 1. Plaintiff Michael Gonzales (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on his own behalf and as a  
5 class action for the benefit of a Class consisting of Lyft drivers whose electronic communications  
6 and whereabouts were intercepted, accessed, monitored, and/or transmitted by Defendants.

7 2. Plaintiff and the Class seek injunctive relief and damages caused by Defendants’  
8 unlawful invasion of privacy and interception of electronic communications and images in violation  
9 of the Federal Wiretap Act as amended by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (the  
10 “ECPA”), the California Invasion of Privacy Act (“CIPA”), the Federal Stored Communication Act  
11 (the “SCA”), the California Unfair Competition Law (the “UCL”), the California Computer Fraud  
12 and Abuse Act (the “CFAA”), and common law invasion of privacy.

13 3. Lyft provides technology that operates in a fashion similar to a taxi company’s  
14 dispatch system. A rider requests a ride using a software application on his or her phone (the “Lyft  
15 App”). The locations of nearby Lyft drivers are displayed to the rider as dots on a map, along with  
16 the estimated price and wait time for arrival once the ride request is submitted.

17 4. Drivers also use the Lyft App. When a driver is ready to accept work, the driver  
18 swipes a switch on the Lyft App, directing the Lyft App to continuously transmit the driver’s  
19 geolocation data and his or her willingness to accept work to servers maintained by Lyft. Lyft, acting  
20 as the drivers’ agent, then forwards the information to Lyft’s riders.

21 5. Uber offers technology that competes with the Lyft App, and that in all ways relevant  
22 to this litigation functions identically to Lyft’s solution.

23 6. Uber operates in the same geographic regions as Lyft. Some drivers even perform  
24 transport services through the two platforms simultaneously.

25 7. Seeking a competitive advantage over Lyft, Uber developed and deployed spyware,  
26 code-named “Hell,” that allowed it to gain unauthorized access to information that was transmitted  
27 through or stored on Lyft’s computer systems. The Hell spyware extracted information from Lyft by  
28 posing as Lyft customers in search of rides. Using Hell, Uber’s employees, contractors, and/or

1 agents were able to harvest the data transmitted by Lyft drivers, including their locations and unique  
2 Lyft ID's. Each Lyft ID is unique, akin to a social security number, allowing Uber to track Lyft  
3 drivers' locations over time, in violation of the Lyft App's Terms of Service.

4 8. Upon information and belief, Uber repeated this process millions of times using the  
5 Hell spyware from 2014 through 2016.

6 9. Upon information and belief, Uber combined the data harvested by Hell with Uber's  
7 internal records (such as historical location data) to, among other things, identify Lyft drivers who  
8 also worked for Uber. Essentially, Uber was looking for overlap between its location data and Lyft's  
9 so that it could inundate drivers who used both platforms with work, encouraging drivers to use  
10 Uber's platform exclusively, and thus harm drivers who only used the Lyft platform. By reducing  
11 the supply of Lyft drivers, Lyft customers saw increased wait times, and Lyft drivers experienced  
12 decreased earnings.

13 10. Plaintiff and Class Members used the Lyft App during the time that Uber deployed  
14 the Hell spyware. Plaintiff and Class Members sent communications through the Lyft App to  
15 prospective passengers notifying them of their locations, their availability to provide transportation  
16 services, and the cost of transportation at the time the communications were intercepted by the Hell  
17 spyware.

18 11. Courts have confirmed that tracking the GPS of an individual "chills associational  
19 and expressive freedoms." *United States v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400, 413, 132 S. Ct. 945, 954, 181 L. Ed.  
20 2d 911 (2012) (Sotomayer, J., concurring). "...GPS monitoring—by making available at a relatively  
21 low cost such a substantial quantum of intimate information about any person whom the  
22 Government, in its unfettered discretion, chooses to track—may "alter the relationship between  
23 citizen and government in a way that is inimical to democratic society." *Id.*, quoting *United States v.*  
24 *Cuevas-Perez*, 640 F.3d 272, 285 (C.A.7 2011) (Flaum, J., concurring).

25 12. The same principles identified by the Supreme Court in *Jones* apply to a corporation  
26 using GPS tracking to monitor the movements of a competitor's workers.

27 13. Uber has never publicly acknowledged the use of its Hell spyware but did not deny its  
28 existence when asked to respond to news reports.

1 14. Uber has never notified the affected Class members that their Personal Information  
2 was harvested and compromised by the Hell spyware.

3 **THE PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 15. Plaintiff and the Class bring this action pursuant to §§ 2511 and 2520 of title 18 of the  
5 United States Code also known as the Electronic Communication Privacy Act (“ECPA”) or Wiretap  
6 Act.

7 16. This Court has original jurisdiction over federal law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§  
8 1331 and 1337.

9 17. This Court also has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
10 § 1367, as those claims are so related to the claims in the action within the Court's original  
11 jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy.

12 18. Plaintiff is an adult California resident.

13 19. Plaintiff used the Lyft App as part of his driving work from 2012 until approximately  
14 November 2014.

15 20. During the time that Plaintiff used the Lyft App, he drove passengers in the San  
16 Francisco Bay Area, including, but not limited to, the counties of San Francisco, San Jose, and San  
17 Mateo.

18 21. At no time has Plaintiff Gonzales ever worked for any Defendant or any subsidiaries  
19 or affiliates of any Defendant.

20 22. At no time has Plaintiff Gonzales ever executed any contract or arbitration agreement  
21 with any Defendant.

22 23. Defendant Uber Technologies, Inc. is a Delaware corporation that maintains a  
23 principal place of business at 1455 Market Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California 94103.

24 24. Defendant Uber USA, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company and maintains a  
25 principal place of business at 1455 Market Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California 94103.

26 25. Defendant Rasier-CA, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company and maintains a  
27 principal place of business at 1455 Market Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California 94103.  
28

1           26.     Together, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Uber USA, LLC, and Rasier-CA,  
2 LLC are referred to collectively as the “Defendants” or “Uber.”

3           27.     Lyft operates as Uber’s main competitor in the United States.

4           28.     Plaintiff does not know the true names and capacities of the defendants sued herein as  
5 Does 1 through 10 (“Doe Defendants”), inclusive, and therefore sues said Doe Defendants by  
6 fictitious names. Plaintiff, based on information and belief, alleges that each of the Doe Defendants  
7 is contractually, strictly, negligently, intentionally, vicariously liable and/or otherwise legally  
8 responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions described herein. Plaintiff will amend this  
9 Complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of each Doe Defendant when the same are  
10 ascertained.

11           29.     Plaintiff, based on information and belief, alleges that Uber and Doe Defendants 1  
12 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, are and at all material times have been, the agents, servants  
13 or employees of each other, purporting to act within the scope of said agency, service or employment  
14 in performing the acts and omitting to act as alleged herein. Each of the Defendants named herein  
15 are believed to, and are alleged to, have been acting in concert with, as employee, agent, co-  
16 conspirator or member of a joint venture of, each of the other Defendants, and are therefore alleged  
17 to be jointly and severally liable for the claims set forth herein, except as otherwise alleged.

18           30.     Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants  
19 reside in this District, conduct substantial business in this District, and the Plaintiff was a victim of  
20 Defendant’s surveillance while working as a Lyft driver in this District.

21           31.     Venue is also proper in this District because the Defendants received, managed,  
22 accessed, intercepted and transmitted communications collected in this District.

23           32.     In connection with the acts and conduct complained of below, Defendants, directly or  
24 indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including the internet, or  
25 made such use possible.

26 //

27 //

28 //

**CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

33. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of himself and all other persons similarly situated. Plaintiff seeks to represent the following classes:

**The National Class**

All individuals who (1) worked as drivers in the United States, and (2) used the Lyft App, (3) while not working for Uber, and (4) had their private information, including their whereabouts, obtained through Uber's access of computer systems operated by the Class or by Lyft on behalf of the Class (the "Class").

**The California CIPA Class Claim**

All individuals who (1) worked as drivers in California, and (2) used the Lyft App, (3) while not working for Uber, and (4) whose private information and whereabouts were obtained through Uber's access of computer systems operated by Lyft or the Class (the "California Class Claims").

34. The "Class Period" dates back four years (or the length of the longest applicable statute of limitations for any claim asserted) and continues through the present and the date of judgment.

35. Excluded from the Class are: (a) any officers, directors or employees of Uber or Lyft; (b) any judge assigned to hear this case (or spouse or family member of any assigned judge); (c) any employee of the Court; and (d) any juror selected to hear this case. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the proposed Class before the Court determines whether certification is appropriate.

36. All requirements for class certification in Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a), 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2) or 23(b)(3) (or any other applicable state or federal rule of civil procedure) are satisfied with respect to the Class. Plaintiff and the respective Class Members were injured by Uber's deployment and use of

1 its Hell spyware. Uber subjected Plaintiff and each Class Member to the same unfair, unlawful, and  
2 deceptive practices and harmed them in the same manner.

3 37. Numerosity: The proposed classes are so numerous that it would be impracticable to  
4 join all members. According to public reports, more than 315,000 individuals have driven for Lyft  
5 in the United States and perhaps 60% of those individuals have also driven for Uber.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the  
6 number of Class Members in the National Class who never worked for Uber may number 126,000 or  
7 more. Common sense dictates that thousands of those individuals are California residents.

8 38. Ascertainability: The community of interest among Class members in the litigation is  
9 well defined and the proposed classes are ascertainable from objective criteria. If necessary to  
10 preserve the case as a class action, the court itself can redefine the Class. Both Uber and Lyft  
11 maintain highly detailed, accurate, and easily accessible databases of their respective drivers, and  
12 individual Class Members have access to accurate records that can confirm their membership in the  
13 proposed Class.

14 39. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, as Plaintiff and all other Class Members  
15 were injured in exactly the same way by the Hell Spyware's unauthorized collection, interception  
16 and/or transmission of their personal information and electronic communications.

17 40. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the Class' interests and has retained  
18 counsel competent and experienced in class action and complex litigation.

19 41. Plaintiff has no interests that are contrary to or in conflict with those of the Class.

20 42. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient  
21 adjudication of this controversy under the acts described below. Given the nature of these claims, the  
22 expense and burden of individual litigation make it virtually impossible for the Class Members  
23 individually to seek redress for the unlawful conduct alleged.

24 43. Plaintiff knows of no foreseen difficulty in the management of this litigation that  
25 would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> <https://www.theinformation.com/ubers-top-secret-hell-program-exploited-lyfts-vulnerability>

1           44. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and  
2 predominate over any questions affecting solely individual Class Members. Among the questions of  
3 law and fact common to the Class are:

- 4           a. Whether Defendants' acts as alleged herein violated the ECPA;
- 5           b. Whether Defendants' acts as alleged herein violated the CIPA;
- 6           c. Whether Defendants' acts as alleged herein constituted invasions of Plaintiff's  
7 privacy;
- 8           d. Whether Defendants' acts as alleged herein constituted violations of the UCL; and
- 9           e. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to compensatory damages, as  
10 well as statutory and punitive damages pursuant to the ECPA.

11           45. Plaintiff brings this action under Rule 23(b)(2) because Defendants have acted or  
12 refused to act on grounds generally applicable to all members of the Class, thereby making final  
13 relief concerning the Class as a whole appropriate. In the absence of appropriate injunctive relief  
14 requiring Defendants to notify all Class Members that their private information has been breached,  
15 Class Members will suffer irreparable harm. Defendants' uniform conduct towards Plaintiff and the  
16 other members of the Class makes certification under Rules 23(b)(2) appropriate.

17           46. Plaintiff also brings this action under Rule 23(b)(3) because the common questions of  
18 law and fact identified herein predominate over questions of law and fact affecting individual  
19 members of the Class. Indeed, the predominant issues in this class are whether Defendants have  
20 violated the law by their unauthorized, inappropriate and undisclosed invasion of privacy, and by  
21 their remote interception and transmission of communications and information secretly obtained, and  
22 by their intentional unauthorized interception and use of electronic and computer communications  
23 and information. Certification under Rule 23(b)(3) is appropriate because:

- 24           a. by virtue of the Hell spyware's clandestine nature as described in this complaint,  
25 individual class members may not be aware that they have been wronged and are thus  
26 unable to prosecute individual claims or take appropriate steps to protect their private  
27 information;
- 28           b. concentration of the litigation concerning this matter in this Court is desirable;



- c. the claims of the representative Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the members of the purported class;
- d. a failure of justice will result from the absence of a class action; and
- e. the difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of this class action are not great.

### SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

47. Details of Uber’s spyware code-named Hell emerged publically on or around April 12, 2017 in the form of national news reports.

48. Prior to the April 12, 2017 news reports, Uber actively concealed the existence and scope of its Hell spyware.

49. The Washington Post chronicled the history of Uber’s Hell spyware during a series of 2017 articles:

April 12

According to a report by The Information, Uber operated a top-secret program known as “Hell,” which sought to identify drivers for Uber competitor Lyft. The program not only helped Uber in locating Lyft drivers, potentially giving Uber a competitive advantage, the report said, but could also identify which Lyft drivers also drove for Uber. Those drivers would then be singled out for special driver-retention efforts, meaning that they were treated differently from Uber’s most loyal workers. Legal analysts said the program could be viewed as an example of an “unfair business practice,” which could land Uber in court.

April 14

California regulators said that Uber may be subject to more than \$1 million in fines after the company repeatedly failed to take action against drivers that passengers said were driving drunk. Uber investigated only 13 percent of passenger reports about drunken driving, according to California’s Public Utility Commission. Uber has promoted its ride-hailing service, in part, by arguing that it reduces drunken driving by keeping inebriated passengers from getting behind the steering wheel.

Brian Fung, *From #deleteUber to ‘Hell’: A short history of Uber’s recent struggles*, THE WASHINGTON POST (April 18, 2017), available at [http://wapo.st/2nSRGqF?tid=ss\\_tw](http://wapo.st/2nSRGqF?tid=ss_tw) .

1           50. Amir Efrati, writing for THE INFORMATION, described Uber's Hell spyware as  
2 follows:

3  
4           As the ride-sharing market was exploding in the U.S. between 2014  
5 and the early part 2016, Uber had an advantage over Lyft that helped  
6 Uber maintain its lead, The Information has learned. Thanks to a secret  
7 software-based effort within Uber called "Hell," Uber could track how  
8 many Lyft drivers were available for new rides and where they were,  
9 according to a person who was involved in the program and a person  
10 who was briefed about it.

11  
12           More importantly, "Hell" showed Uber employees which of the  
13 tracked drivers were driving for both Lyft and Uber, helping Uber  
14 figure out how to lure those drivers away from its rival. That's a  
15 crucial edge in a business where finding enough people to drive is a  
16 constant battle.

#### 17 THE TAKEAWAY

18  
19           The revelation of a controversial Uber program aimed at hurting rival  
20 Lyft could further complicate CEO Travis Kalanick's attempt to lead  
21 Uber out of its deepening cultural and management crisis. It also opens  
22 up the company to potential legal claims.

23  
24           Only a small group of Uber employees, including top executives such  
25 as CEO Travis Kalanick, knew about the program, said the person who  
26 was involved in it. Not even Uber's then-powerful "general managers"  
27 who ran the business in individual cities were supposed to know about  
28 it.

29           The program, part of the company's competitive intelligence, or  
30 "COIN," group, was referred to as "Hell" because it paralleled Uber's  
31 dashboard of Uber drivers and riders known as "God View," or  
32 "Heaven."

33           "Hell" was discontinued sometime in the early part of 2016, this  
34 person said. This person asked for anonymity because they aren't  
35 authorized to discuss Uber's internal matters. A spokesman for Uber  
36 said the company wouldn't publicly discuss its internal processes. Lyft  
37 said in a statement: "We are in a competitive industry. However, if  
38 true, these allegations are very concerning."

39           Revelation of the program could open up Uber to possible civil legal  
40 claims by Lyft, according to lawyers from two law firms that have  
41 represented Uber on other matters. Such potential state and federal  
42 claims could include "breach of contract"; "unfair business practices";  
43 misappropriation of trade secrets; and a civil violation of the federal

1 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act because of the way Uber allegedly  
2 accessed information from Lyft. Such an action could give Lyft the  
3 ability to probe certain Uber business practices in court. Antitrust  
4 claims also are a possibility if Uber used Hell to help maintain its  
5 market power over Lyft—it generates between 70% to 85% of ride-  
6 hailing app revenue versus Lyft in key U.S. cities, according to third  
7 parties and people inside the companies—these lawyers said.

8 The public disclosure of Hell and Mr. Kalanick’s involvement with it  
9 also could make it harder for him to pull Uber out of a deepening  
10 cultural and management crisis that started in mid-February. Four of  
11 his 13 direct reports have resigned because of conflicts with Mr.  
12 Kalanick or because their past behavior was questioned. Mr. Kalanick,  
13 despite losing credibility with employees and executives throughout  
14 his company because of a variety of revelations, has said he is  
15 determined to continue as CEO, albeit with help from a COO he is  
16 trying to hire.

#### 11 Spoofed Riders

12 Uber and Lyft have waged a war for market share in the U.S. since  
13 2012, when Uber launched UberX, a lower-cost version of its ride-  
14 hailing service that let most anyone use their car to pick up Uber  
15 riders. UberX was similar to Lyft, which had launched a month earlier.  
16 Uber leveraged its early lead in riders, thanks to a high-end “black car”  
17 version of the service that began three years earlier, to capture market  
18 share against Lyft.

19 In 2014, Lyft expanded its operations from 20 cities to 65 cities,  
20 covering most major U.S. metro areas—places where Uber had  
21 already been operating for some time. Lyft’s market share was thus  
22 small but the company was able to take advantage of the demand for,  
23 and awareness of, ride-hailing that Uber had generated previous to  
24 Lyft’s entrance.

25 A key weapon in the war between the companies was getting enough  
26 drivers so that riders don’t have to wait long for a ride. Recruiting  
27 drivers through advertising and other marketing has been Uber’s top  
28 operating expense, judging by confidential financial statements 2015  
seen by The Information. That expense easily could have reached \$1  
billion in 2016, assuming a steady rate of growth.

25 Hell started like this: Uber created fake Lyft rider accounts and used  
26 commonly available software to fool Lyft’s system into thinking those  
27 riders were in particular locations, according to the person. (That in  
28 and of itself is a violation of Lyft’s terms of service, which prohibits  
users from “impersonat[ing] any person or entity,” which Lyft riders  
must agree to when they open the app.)

1 The spoofed Lyft accounts made by Uber then could get information  
2 about as many as eight of the nearest available Lyft drivers who could  
3 accommodate a ride request. Uber made sure that in each city where it  
4 was competing with Lyft, the fake rider locations were organized in a  
grid-like format so that it could view the entire city.

5 In other words, Uber could see, nearly in real time, all of Lyft's drivers  
6 who were available for new rides—and where those drivers were  
7 located. That also allowed Uber to track the prices Lyft would offer to  
riders for certain trips, and how many cars were available to pick up  
riders at a particular time in one city or another.

#### 8 Lyft's Flaw

9 But Uber executives realized there was a vulnerability in Lyft's  
10 system. The information about the nearby Lyft drivers included a  
11 special numbered ID, or token, that was tied to each individual driver.  
12 That ID remained consistent over time. So Uber could identify the  
13 same drivers again and again no matter where they were in a city.  
14 Thus, it learned some of those drivers' habits, such as what time of day  
or what days of the week they would run the Lyft app. (Uber  
constantly changes the IDs of its drivers for the Uber app so they can't  
be tracked in the same way, said the person involved with Hell.)

15 Here's the critical part of Hell: Because Uber tracked Lyft's drivers  
16 over time, it was able to figure out which of them were driving for  
17 Uber too, because it would be able to match the locations of its own  
18 drivers with those of Lyft. In many cities, more than 60% of Lyft's  
19 drivers also drive for Uber because they want to maximize their  
20 earnings. (As of a year ago, Lyft said it had about 315,000 drivers.)  
Uber thus had specific identities and contact information for the  
majority of Lyft's weekly or monthly active drivers in a particular  
place. "We achieved ground truth," said the person involved in the  
program.

21 Armed with data about when and where Lyft's drivers were operating,  
22 Uber aimed to sway them to work only for Uber instead, this person  
23 said. One way was to give them special financial bonuses for reaching  
a certain number of rides per week.

24 Uber employees involved with the Hell program passed along a list of  
25 drivers that should be targeted by the city general managers, who  
26 oversaw driver bonus budgets at that time.

27 Another goal of the program was to make sure Uber steered rides more  
28 reliably to Uber drivers who were also available on the Lyft network  
than to those who weren't, this person said. In other words, if there

1 were several Uber drivers near an Uber rider but one of those drivers  
2 was also frequently available on the Lyft network, as seen by the Hell  
3 program, Uber's ride-dispatch team was supposed to "tip" that ride  
4 request to the driver who was "dual apping," or typically looking for  
riders through both the Lyft and Uber apps, sometimes by using two  
different smartphones at the same time.

5 The person involved in the program called it "privileged dispatch" and  
6 said Uber aimed to use that to squeeze Lyft's supply of drivers. This  
7 person didn't know how much the ride-dispatch team used data  
8 derived from Hell as part of its calculations. An Uber spokesman said  
the company does not give preference to "dual-apping" drivers.

9 "Hustle"

10 It's unclear if anyone at Uber quantified how helpful Hell was to its  
11 business overall, but the program got information about Lyft's network  
12 across the country, said the person who was involved with it. During  
13 meetings with the small group of people involved in Hell, Mr.  
Kalanick would often praise the team for the work they were doing  
and how well it fit into Uber's culture of "hustle" in order to win.

14 While it's hard to estimate the potential impact of Hell on Lyft, even  
15 after the program was shut down, Uber could derive value from  
16 knowing which of its drivers were active drivers for Lyft generally, at  
least for a period of time. "The damage was done," this person said.

17 Uber and Lyft have other ways of finding out which of their drivers  
18 might be driving for the competition. For instance, Lyft can see  
19 whether certain of its drivers—those who use Android-powered  
20 smartphones—also have the Uber app installed on their phone. (The  
21 Android operating system allows app developers to "scan" the phones  
to see what other apps are on them.) The iPhone is different. Apple  
stopped allowing app scanning on iPhones starting in mid-2015. But  
Hell gave Uber much more valuable data.

22 Hell was overseen by several employees, including a product manager  
23 and data scientists who had special access to a room at Uber's  
24 headquarters in San Francisco, where the intel on Lyft's drivers was  
collected via computers that had the spoof accounts, this person said.

25 Some at Uber might argue that some drivers benefited from Uber's  
26 surveillance of Lyft because they made more money when Uber  
27 decided to boost their bonuses or give them more rides. But the drivers  
28 who benefited most were those who showed less loyalty to Uber. Also,  
the destruction of Lyft would be bad for drivers in the long run. Lyft's  
presence in the market has ensured greater bonuses overall, though

those may need to disappear if either company wants to make a profit.

...

Amir Efrati, *Uber's Top Secret "Hell" Program Exploited Lyft's Vulnerability*, THE INFORMATION (April 12, 2017), available at <https://www.theinformation.com/ubers-top-secret-hell-program-exploited-lyfts-vulnerability>.

51. Upon information and belief, all of the information and allegations contained in the article quoted in the preceding paragraph are true and accurate.

52. Starting in 2014 or earlier and continuing into 2016, Uber secretly used the Hell spyware to access computer systems, including servers and smartphones, owned and operated by Plaintiff, Class Members, and Lyft.

53. Upon information and belief, Uber used sophisticated software such as Wireshark or another network analyzer (a "Sniffer") to determine how the Lyft App communicated with Lyft's Computer Communication Servers. Lyft's Computer Communication Servers are a remote storage medium for electronic communications, and constitute an electronic communications system as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2511(12), in that the servers constitute a "wire, radio, electromagnetic, photooptical or photoelectronic facilities for the transmission of wire or electronic communications, and any computer facilities or related electronic equipment for the electronic storage of such communications." Electronic communications that are contained on the server awaiting and awaiting transmission to their ultimate recipient on the servers are in "electronic storage" as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2510(17)(A), in that the servers are "providing temporary, intermediate storage of a wire or electronic communication incidental to the electronic transmission thereof." Finally, Lyft's Computer Communication Servers are secure, in that they require a username and password to access, and will only transmit the information at issue in this litigation to users (i.e., riders and drivers) who have created accounts with Lyft and agreed to abide by Lyft's Terms of Service.

54. Upon information and belief, Sniffers allow users to monitor all traffic on a wireless network. Although smartphones running the Lyft App would often connect to Lyft using a cellular network, during times that cellular data functionality was disabled, all Lyft App-related data would be routed through a Wi-Fi Network. Upon information and belief, Uber used Sniffers to monitor

1 communications to and from the Lyft App over Wi-Fi Networks. Through this process, Uber was  
2 eventually able to obtain sufficient information about the Lyft App and Lyft's Computer  
3 Communication Servers to determine how the systems operated.

4 55. Lyft drivers used software to communicate with Lyft and Lyft riders. More  
5 specifically, Lyft drivers used the Lyft App to communicate with servers over the Internet by  
6 transmitting and receiving "packets" of information. A packet is analogous to a physical letter  
7 mailed from one address to the other, and the protocol used to transmit the packet is analogous to the  
8 physical envelope that holds the letter.

9 56. Upon information and belief, the Lyft Driver App uses the Hypertext Transfer  
10 Protocol ("HTTP") to communicate with Lyft's Computer Communication Servers. HTTP "is an  
11 application protocol for distributed, collaborative, and hypermedia information systems. HTTP is the  
12 foundation of data communication for the World Wide Web."<sup>2</sup>

13 57. "HTTP functions as a request-response protocol in the client-server computing  
14 model. A web browser, for example, may be the client and an application running on a computer  
15 hosting a website may be the server. The client submits an HTTP request message to the server. The  
16 server, which provides resources such as HTML files and other content, or performs other functions  
17 on behalf of the client, returns a response message to the client. The response contains completion  
18 status information about the request and may also contain requested content in its message body."<sup>3</sup>

19 58. The Lyft App, running on a smartphone, was the user agent.

20 59. "A web browser is an example of a user agent (UA). Other types of user agent  
21 include the indexing software used by search providers (web crawlers), voice browsers, mobile apps,  
22 and other software that accesses, consumes, or displays web content."<sup>4</sup>

23 60. "HTTP is designed to permit intermediate network elements to improve or enable  
24 communications between clients and servers. High-traffic websites often benefit from web cache  
25 servers that deliver content on behalf of upstream servers to improve response time. Web browsers  
26

27 <sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol)

28 <sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol)

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol)



1 cache previously accessed web resources and reuse them when possible to reduce network traffic.  
2 HTTP proxy servers at private network boundaries can facilitate communication for clients without a  
3 globally routable address, by relaying messages with external servers.”<sup>5</sup>

4 61. “HTTP is an application layer protocol designed within the framework of the Internet  
5 protocol suite. Its definition presumes an underlying and reliable transport layer protocol, and  
6 Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is commonly used.”<sup>6</sup>

7 62. “The [HTTP] GET method requests a representation of the specified resource.  
8 Requests using GET should only retrieve data and should have no other effect. (This is also true of  
9 some other HTTP methods.) The W3C has published guidance principles on this distinction, saying,  
10 ‘Web application design should be informed by the above principles, but also by the relevant  
11 limitations.’”<sup>7</sup>

12 63. The Lyft App allows Lyft riders to obtain transportation from Lyft drivers such as  
13 Plaintiff.

14 64. In order to become a Lyft rider, an individual must create a Lyft account and agree to  
15 a set of written terms and conditions.

16 65. Upon information and belief, after a rider logs into the Lyft App the app sends an  
17 HTTP request to Lyft’s Computer Communication Servers.

18 66. Upon information and belief, the HTTP request contains the passenger’s Lyft  
19 Customer ID and their current GPS coordinates.

20 67. Upon information and belief, Lyft’s Computer Communication Servers responds to  
21 the Lyft App’s HTTP request with a list of nearby drivers who were logged in and had affirmatively  
22 indicated they were available for work. This list contains the drivers’ Lyft Driver IDs as well as their  
23 current GPS coordinates. The list is transmitted to riders through Lyft’s Computer Communication  
24 Servers.

25  
26  
27 <sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol)

28 <sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol)

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext\\_Transfer\\_Protocol#Request\\_methods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol#Request_methods)



68. In the sending and receiving process, HTTP requests are transmitted using the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP).

69. As discussed, the HTTP request itself is the equivalent of a letter – the communication’s material content. The letter (HTTP request) is packaged into an envelope (a TCP packet) to deliver it from one computer to another.

70. While traditional envelopes use physical postal addresses, TCP packets use computer Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. For instance, the Lyft App might have an IP address of 15.15.15.15 and Lyft’s Central Communication Servers might have a primary IP address of 16.16.16.16. Routers transmitting TCP packets relay the packets through a number of other servers as they travel across cellular networks, wireless networks, and other wired networks. IP addresses allow the routers to move the packets from one server to the next until they reach their destination. This is essentially equivalent to a sealed letter traveling between different post offices on route to its final destination.

71. In other words, “Transmission Control Protocol accepts data from a data stream, divides it into chunks, and adds a TCP header creating a TCP segment. The TCP segment is then encapsulated into an Internet Protocol (IP) datagram, and exchanged with peers. ... A TCP segment consists of a segment header and a data section. The TCP header contains 10 mandatory fields, and an optional extension field. The data section follows the header. Its contents are the payload data carried for the application. The length of the data section is not specified in the TCP segment header. It can be calculated by subtracting the combined length of the TCP header and the encapsulating IP header from the total IP datagram length (specified in the IP header).”<sup>8</sup>

72. In the present matter, Lyft drivers who are ready to work send digital letters to Lyft. Each letter has a number of components that are directly analogous to a physical letter:

- a. The IP address for the driver’s smartphone, and the IP address for Lyft’s Central Communication Servers (the digital equivalent of return and mailing addresses written on an envelope);
- b. The TCP packet (the digital equivalent of the physical envelope);

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<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission\\_Control\\_Protocol#TCP\\_segment\\_structure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol#TCP_segment_structure)

c. A “letter” contained in the digital envelope reciting the following pieces of personal information: (1) the driver’s unique identifier; (2) the driver’s precise geolocation; (3) the driver’s affirmation that he is currently willing to provide services to a rider; (4) an estimated price for the ride.

d. The content assembled in the previous paragraphs constitutes an “electronic communication” is defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12).

73. Upon information and belief, Defendants used network analyzers to detect, copy, and decode the TCP packets sent from Lyft’s Central Communication Servers to the Lyft App.

74. Upon information and belief, Defendants reverse-engineered the communication process and were then able to use the Hell spyware to masquerade as Lyft riders seeking rides. Defendants then created a network of fake Lyft riders, arrayed in a grid overlaying metropolitan areas across the United States. These fake Lyft riders would send forged HTTP requests to Lyft’s Central Communication Servers.

75. Upon information and belief, the fake Lyft rider accounts created by the Hell spyware all affirmatively agreed to Lyft’s Terms of Service, which provides in part that the Lyft App’s users will not:

- a. impersonate any person or entity;
- b. stalk, threaten, or otherwise harass any person, or carry any weapons;
- c. violate any law, statute, rule, permit, ordinance or regulation;
- d. interfere with or disrupt the Services or the Lyft Platform or the servers or networks connected to the Lyft Platform;
- e. post Information or interact on the Lyft Platform or Services in a manner which is false, inaccurate, misleading (directly or by omission or failure to update information), defamatory, libelous, abusive, obscene, profane, offensive, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, or illegal;
- f. use the Lyft Platform in any way that infringes any third party’s rights, including but not limited to: intellectual property rights, copyright, patent, trademark, trade secret or other proprietary rights or rights of publicity or privacy;

- g. post, email or otherwise transmit any malicious code, files or programs designed to interrupt, damage, destroy or limit the functionality of any computer software or hardware or telecommunications equipment or surreptitiously intercept or expropriate any system, data or personal information;
- h. forge headers or otherwise manipulate identifiers in order to disguise the origin of any information transmitted through the Lyft Platform;
- i. “frame” or “mirror” any part of the Lyft Platform, without our prior written authorization or use meta tags or code or other devices containing any reference to us in order to direct any person to any other web site for any purpose; or
- j. modify, adapt, translate, reverse engineer, decipher, decompile or otherwise disassemble any portion of the Lyft Platform or any software used on or for the Lyft Platform;
- k. rent, lease, lend, sell, redistribute, license or sublicense the Lyft Platform or access to any portion of the Lyft Platform;
- l. use any robot, spider, site search/retrieval application, or other manual or automatic device or process to retrieve, index, scrape, “data mine”, or in any way reproduce or circumvent the navigational structure or presentation of the Lyft Platform or its contents;
- m. link directly or indirectly to any other web sites;
- n. transfer or sell your User account, password and/or identification to any other party
- o. discriminate against or harass anyone on the basis of race, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age or sexual orientation, or
- p. cause any third party to engage in the restricted activities above.

76. Upon information and belief, the fraudulent HTTP requests sent by the Hell spyware contained the customer IDs of active Lyft rider accounts, as well as the username and password associated with that ID. Defendants created these forged accounts to gain access to Lyft’s Central

1 Communication Servers, which are protected computer systems that require user authentication, in  
2 violation of Lyft's Terms of Service.

3 77. When Lyft's Central Communication Servers received a HTTP request from a forged  
4 rider account, they believed that the ride requests were coming from actual Lyft riders, not the Hell  
5 spyware. As a result, Lyft's servers transmitted an HTTP response (essentially a response letter)  
6 containing the ID's, on duty status, pricing, and exact locations of nearby Lyft drivers (the "Driver  
7 Information"). The data transmitted was provided by Lyft drivers, and was only intended to be  
8 delivered to actual nearby Lyft riders.

9 78. The Hell spyware's functionality is analogous to commercially available "scrapping"  
10 software. An example of such web scraping software is Scrapy (<https://scrapy.org/>). An example  
11 of how to use scrapping software to instantaneously harvest vast quantities of data from an  
12 unsecured website, Craigslist, is available at: [http://python.gotrained.com/scrapy-tutorial-web-](http://python.gotrained.com/scrapy-tutorial-web-scrapping-craigslist/)  
13 [scrapping-craigslist/](http://python.gotrained.com/scrapy-tutorial-web-scrapping-craigslist/).

14 79. Upon information and belief, Defendants created many, many fraudulent Lyft rider  
15 accounts that were used to gain access to Lyft's Central Communication Servers to intercept the  
16 communications drivers sent to prospective riders.

17 80. Upon information and belief, Defendants sent forged HTTP requests associated with  
18 the forged Lyft rider accounts. Defendants then used the fraudulently received GPS coordinates and  
19 driver identifiers to create grid-like detection nets over cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and  
20 New York. For instance, one forged driver account would transmit an HTTP requests indicate that  
21 aLyft rider was at the Philip Burton Federal Building with GPS coordinates of 37.782 -122.418.  
22 Lyft's servers would fall for the deception and transmit back information for all nearby Lyft drivers.  
23 Simultaneously, the Hell spyware would also send another set of HTTP requests indicating that a  
24 different fake Lyft rider was a few blocks north on O'Farrell Street with GPS coordinates of 37.784 -  
25 122.418. Upon knowledge or belief, this process could be (and in fact was) repeated with an  
26 arbitrarily large number of fake Lyft accounts, allowing Uber to obtain complete geographic  
27 coverage of entire metropolitan areas, and the exact locations of all Lyft drivers and other  
28 information.

1           81. Taxi service geolocation data, unique identifiers, and other datasets have been  
2 combined before to glean personal info about drivers and passengers. For example, in 2014 an  
3 analyst used anonymous New York City taxi records cross-referenced pickup and dropoff location  
4 coordinates with publically available data to identify the patrons of a strip club.<sup>9</sup>

5           82. Upon information and belief, Defendants sent hundreds or even thousands of requests  
6 every second from the grid-like array of forged Lyft rider accounts, essentially allowing Defendants  
7 to monitor the whereabouts of all Lyft drivers in major markets like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and  
8 New York in real time.

9           83. Upon information and belief, Uber used the vast quantities of personal data collected  
10 by the Hell spyware to create a historical database, allowing it to retroactively scrutinize the  
11 activities of Lyft's drivers. Upon information and belief, Uber used the data collected through its  
12 industrial espionage in conjunction with other databases to learn personal details about Lyft drivers  
13 including, but not limited to, the drivers' full names, their home addresses, when and where they  
14 typically work each day and for how many hours, and where they take breaks. Also upon  
15 information and belief, Uber was able to use the data collected to determine the identities of the  
16 drivers' rider customers.

17           84. Plaintiff and Class Members are Lyft drivers who affirmatively signaled that they  
18 were available to transport fare-paying passengers. They did so by opening the Lyft App and  
19 swiping a button to go on duty.

20           85. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff used the Lyft App running on his smartphone  
21 to send an HTTP request to Lyft's Computer Communication Servers with his Driver Information.  
22 This data was stored on Lyft's Computer Communication Servers.

23           86. Upon information and belief, the Lyft's Computer Communication Servers also  
24 redirected and forwarded Plaintiff's Driver Information to authorized riders in Plaintiff's vicinity  
25 seeking transportation.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>9</sup> Chris Gayomali, *NYC Taxi Data Blunder Reveals Which Celebs Don't Tip - And Who Frequents Stripe*  
28 *Clubs*, Oct. 2, 2014, available at <https://www.fastcompany.com/3036573/nyc-taxi-data-blunder-reveals-which-celebs-dont-tip-and-who-frequents-strip-clubs>

1           87.     Upon information and belief, Lyft's Computer Communication Servers store the  
2 location of every Lyft driver, whether on duty or off duty, every few seconds.

3           88.     Upon information and belief, Uber's computer systems also store the location of  
4 every Uber driver, whether on duty or off duty, every few seconds.

5           89.     Upon information and belief, Uber's computer systems also store the location of  
6 every Uber rider, whether or not the rider is currently requesting a ride, every few seconds.

7           90.     Upon information and belief, neither Uber nor Lyft ever delete the geolocation data  
8 they collect from drivers, at least in part because they consider it valuable to their respective  
9 businesses.

10          91.     Upon information and belief, the Uber Hell spyware used the above-described  
11 technology to send numerous forged HTTP requests to Lyft's Computer Communication Servers  
12 which caused it to automatically respond initially with Driver Information it had previously stored in  
13 databases and, as Hell's requests continued, redirect/forward Driver Information transmitted directly  
14 by Lyft Driver Apps that was intended for actual fare-paying riders nearby. Thus, the Hell spyware  
15 allowed Defendants to intercept Driver Information being transmitted through Lyft's Computer  
16 Communication Servers in real time (save for the inherent lag in any computer network) as well as  
17 access the Driver Information stored in databases on Lyft's Computer Communication Servers.

18          92.     Upon information and belief, Lyft drivers would begin transmitting their personal  
19 information through the Lyft App as soon as they opened the Lyft App and indicated they were  
20 available for work. These transmissions were not limited to times that the Lyft drivers were on  
21 public roads. Thus, for example, if a Lyft driver activated the app while still in the driveways of their  
22 homes, the Hell spyware would provide Uber with the means to discern where Lyft drivers lived.

23          93.     When logged in to the Lyft App, Plaintiff and the Class consented to share their  
24 location, unique identifier, and work availability status, only with Lyft and actual Lyft riders. Upon  
25 information and belief, neither Plaintiff nor any member of the Class agreed to share the  
26 aforementioned information with Uber.

27          94.     Further, Lyft was the only entity that Plaintiff and the Class allowed to maintain a  
28 historical record of their geolocation data. Actual Lyft riders would have no way of keeping such

1 records, especially because the unique identifiers belonging to Lyft drivers is not displayed on the  
2 visual display available to riders searching for a driver. Rather, riders only see an icon of a car  
3 imposed on a map. Upon information and belief, neither Plaintiff nor any member of the Class  
4 agreed to allow Uber to maintain their historical geolocation data.

5 95. As designed, the Hell spyware enabled Defendants to surreptitiously access, monitor,  
6 intercept, and/or transmit personal information as well as electronic communications and  
7 whereabouts in real time, other than the nominal delay attributable to network speed limitations  
8 when moving communications across Lyft's servers

9 96. Upon information and belief, Uber's Hell spyware enabled Uber to engage, and  
10 Defendants did in fact engage, in illegal, surreptitious, and unauthorized covert electronic  
11 surveillance, intrusion on Plaintiff and Class Members' privacy, seclusion, anonymity, whereabouts,  
12 and the interception of protected private communications.

13 97. Upon information and belief, Uber's Hell spyware was developed, written,  
14 manufactured, assembled, and utilized by Uber for the purpose of allowing Uber to remotely spy on  
15 Plaintiff and Class Members, as well as track, access, monitor, intercept and/or transmit electronic  
16 communications on Lyft and Class Members' computer systems.

17 98. Upon information and belief, Uber's Hell spyware was designed to be invisible or  
18 generally undetectable to Lyft, Class Members, and law enforcement officials.

19 99. Upon information and belief, Uber did engage in the conduct described in the  
20 preceding paragraphs.

21 100. Upon information and belief, Uber profited from the Hell spyware in a number of  
22 ways.

23 101. Upon information and belief, Uber used the information gleaned from Hell to direct  
24 more frequent and more profitable trips to Uber drivers who also used the Lyft App. By inundating  
25 these drivers from Uber rides, Uber was able to discourage drivers from accepting work on the Lyft  
26 platform, reducing the effective supply of Lyft drivers available.

27 102. With the effective supply of Lyft drivers reduced, Lyft customers faced longer wait  
28 times. As a result, Lyft riders would cancel the ride requested with Lyft and request a new ride from

Uber. Over time, this would reduce the effectiveness of the Lyft App, thus harming drivers such as Plaintiff and absent Class Members.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I**

##### **(Violation of the ECPA, 18 U.S.C. § 2511, on behalf of the National Class)**

103. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding and succeeding allegations by reference as if fully set forth herein.

104. Defendants have intentionally intercepted and/or procured another person to intercept Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications without Plaintiff's or the Class Members' knowledge, authorization, or consent in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2511.

105. Defendants have also intentionally used and/or procured another to use a device to intercept the above-referenced electronic communications.

106. An "electronic communication" is defined in § 2510(12) as any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photooptical system that affects interstate or foreign commerce.

107. Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a) by intentionally, collecting, gathering intercepting, endeavoring to intercept, transmit, procure, store any other person to intercept or endeavor to intercept Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications.

108. Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(c) by intentionally collecting, transmitting, storing and disclosing, or endeavoring to disclose, to any other person, the contents of Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications, knowing or having reason to know that the information was obtained through the interception of Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications.

109. Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(d) by intentionally using or endeavoring to use, the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' electronic communications, knowing or having reason to know that the information was obtained through the interception of private electronic communications.



110. Neither Plaintiff nor Class Members authorized or consented to Defendants' interception of electronic communications.

111. Section 2520 of the ECPA provides for a private cause of action and allows for declaratory and equitable relief as appropriate and statutory damages of the greater of \$10,000 or \$100 a day for each day of violation, actual and punitive damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

## **COUNT II**

### **(Violation of the CIPA, Penal Code § 630 *et seq.*, on behalf of the Class)**

112. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding and succeeding allegations by reference as if fully set forth herein.

113. The California Invasion of Privacy Act ("CIPA") was enacted in 1967 for the express purpose "to protect the right of privacy of the people of this state." Penal Code § 630. The California Legislature declared that with the advent of new devices and technology used "for the purposes of eavesdropping upon private communications," the resulting invasion of privacy from the "use of such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties and cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society."

114. Among other prohibitions, the California Invasion of Privacy Act prohibits using an electronic recording device to eavesdrop or record confidential communications between devices. Penal Code Section 632.

115. Among other prohibitions, the California Invasion of Privacy Act prohibits using an electronic tracking device to determine the location or movement of a person. Penal Code Section 637.7.

116. Any person who has been injured by a violation of the CIPA may bring an action against the person who committed the violation for the greater of the following amounts: (1) five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation; (2) three times the amount of actual damages, if any, sustained by the plaintiff.

117. Further, any person may bring an action to enjoin and restrain any violation of California Invasion of Privacy Act. It is not a prerequisite to an action pursuant to this section that the plaintiff has suffered, or is threatened with, actual damages.

118. Defendants violated the California Invasion of Privacy Act, *inter alia*, when intercepting private communications between the Class and Lyft, including but not limited to, the driver's identification and pricing information, as well as tracking the locations of Class Members as described herein.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Violation of the SCA)**

119. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding and succeeding allegations by reference as if fully set forth herein.

120. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class against Defendants.

121. Defendants have intentionally accessed without authorization a facility through which an electronic communications service is provided and thereby obtained an electronic communication while it was in electronic storage in such system in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2701(a).

### **COUNT IV**

#### **(Violation of the CFAA)**

122. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding and succeeding allegations by reference as if fully set forth herein.

123. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class against Defendants.

124. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the Cal. Penal Code § 502.

125. Defendants knowingly accessed and without permission used data, or a computer, or a computer system, or a computer network, in order to wrongfully control or obtain money, property, or data, contrary to Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(1).

126. Defendants knowingly accessed and without permission took, copied, or made use of data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, or took or copied and supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network, contrary to Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(2).

127. Defendants knowingly used or caused to be used computer services, contrary to Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(3).

128. Defendants knowingly and without permission disrupted or caused the disruption of computer services or denied or caused the denial of computer services to an authorized user of a computer, computer system, or computer network, contrary to Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(5).

129. Defendants knowingly and without permission provided or assisted in providing the a means of accessing a computer, computer system, or computer network in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 502, contrary to Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(7).

### **COUNT V**

#### **(Violation of the UCL )**

130. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding and succeeding allegations by reference as if fully set forth herein.

131. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class against Defendants.

132. This cause of action is brought pursuant to California’s Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.* (“the UCL”).

133. Defendants engaged in unlawful and unfair conduct under the UCL through its unlawful, unethical, and immoral use of its Hell spyware as described more fully herein.

134. Defendants’ actions and practices constitute “unlawful” business practices in violation of the UCL because, among other law, Defendants violated the following statutes:

- a. The ECPA, as detailed in Plaintiff’s first cause of action;
- b. The CIPA, as detailed in Plaintiff’s second cause of action;
- c. The SCA, as detailed in Plaintiff’s third cause of action;
- d. The CFAA, as detailed in Plaintiff’s fourth cause of action;
- e. The Economic Espionage Act (18 U.S. Code § 1832);
- f. The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (18 U.S.C. § 1030).

135. Defendants’ actions and practices constitute “unfair” business practices because Defendants’ practices, as described throughout this complaint, offends established public policy and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous and substantially injurious to consumers.

136. Defendants' actions and practices constitute "unfair" business practices because Defendants' practices, as described throughout this complaint, represent "conduct that threatens an incipient violation of an antitrust law, or violates the policy or spirit of one of those laws because its effects are comparable to or the same as a violation of the law, or otherwise significantly threatens or harms competition." *Cel-Tech Commc'ns, Inc. v. Los Angeles Cellular Tel. Co.*, 20 Cal. 4th 163, 186, 973 P.2d 527, 543 (1999).

137. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered and continue to suffer injury in fact and lose money or property as a result of Defendant's conduct.

138. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, seeks: (a) injunctive relief in the form of an order requiring Defendant to cease the acts of unfair competition alleged herein and purge all ill-gotten personal and private information from Defendants' computers and records; (b) restitution; (c) declaratory relief; and (d) attorney fees and costs pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. P. § 1021.5, *inter alia*.

## **COUNT VI**

### **(Invasion of Privacy)**

139. Plaintiff incorporates all of the proceeding paragraphs herein.

140. The California Constitution declares that:

All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.

Cal. Const. art. I, § 1.

141. As described herein, Defendants engaged in conduct that invaded Plaintiff's and Class Members' privacy interests, including, but not limited to, eavesdropping on their private electronic communications and monitoring their whereabouts.

142. The Hell spyware invaded both types of privacy interests recognized in California law: "(1) interests in precluding the dissemination or misuse of sensitive and confidential

information ('informational privacy'); and (2) interests in making intimate personal decisions or conducting personal activities without observation, intrusion, or interference ('autonomy privacy')." *Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, 7 Cal. 4th 1, 35, 865 P.2d 633, 654 (1994).

143. Plaintiff and Class Members had a reasonable expectation of privacy as to the interests invaded.

144. Defendants' invasion of Plaintiff and Class Members' privacy interests was serious and sustained over several years.

145. Defendants' invasion of Plaintiff and Class Members' privacy interests caused Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer injury and damages.

146. The intentional and deliberate invasion of privacy as referenced herein constituted wanton, willful, and malicious conduct justifying an award of punitive damages against these Defendants.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, prays for relief as follows:

A. For an order certifying that the action may be maintained as a class action and appointing Plaintiffs and their undersigned counsel to represent the Class in this litigation;

B. For an order declaring that Defendants' acts and practices constitute violations of the ECPA;

C. For an order declaring that Defendants' acts and practices constitute violations of the CIPA;

D. For an order declaring that Defendants' acts and practices constitute violations of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*;

E. For a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from continuing to harm Plaintiff and members of the Class and the public, and violating California and federal law in the manners described above;

F. For restitution;

G. For actual and statutory damages pursuant to ECPA;

H. For actual and statutory damages pursuant to CIPA;

- 1 I. For nominal, compensatory, and punitive damages where appropriate;  
2 J. For reasonable attorneys' fees and the costs of the suit; and  
3 K. For all such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper and may be available  
4 at law or equity.

5 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

6 Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury of all claims so triable.

7 Dated: September 29, 2017

By: /s/ Michael A. McShane

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